GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
Identification of BPL Families
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing methodology used for identification of BPL families including the number of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country based on Below Poverty Line (BPL) last census, State/UT-wise;

(b) the manner in which the above list is being used in determining the beneficiaries under poverty alleviation programmes;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the methodology used for the purpose, if so, the details thereof including the drawbacks identified and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) whether any task force/committee has been constituted for evolving effective process for verifying the indicators, analyzing the data and identification of beneficiaries under various rural development programmes and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 151 due for Answer on 30th July, 2015.

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting Census to identify the deprivation and poverty of households in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The first BPL Census was conducted in 1992 for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Subsequently, BPL census was conducted in 1997, for the Ninth Five Year Plan. The last BPL Census for the Tenth Five Year Plan period was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic indicators/parameters/criteria were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by this Ministry. These 13 indicators were (i) size of land holding, (ii) type of houses, (iii) clothing (iv) food security (v) sanitation (vi) ownership of consumer durables (vii) literacy status (viii) Status of household labour force (ix) means of livelihood (x) Status of children (xi) indebtedness (xii) migration and (xiii) preference of assistance. For each of these thirteen indicators, the households were awarded scores in a five-point scale from 0-4. The scores were inversely related to the poverty and deprivation of the household. A low score indicate a higher level of poverty and deprivation and vice-versa. For each household, the scores from these 13 indicators were summed up to get aggregate score of the household. The aggregate score of a household could range from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 52. The households were arranged in ascending order to get the BPL list.
A decision was taken to put a ceiling on the number of BPL households in each states for which states were also given the option of deciding the total number of BPL households equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of the Planning Commission or the Adjusted Share computed by the Planning Commission, whichever was higher. In addition, the States were also given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor.

A statement showing rural BPL families identified by the States/UTs as per the BPL Census 2002 is at Annexure.

(c): Keeping in view the multidimensional aspect of poverty and the need to ensure evidence based development intervention by appropriate government, a decision was taken in 2011 to undertake Socio Economic and Caste Census -2011 (SECC-2011) for identifying deprivation and for automatic inclusion of households as poor in the rural development programmes aimed at alleviating poverty. Provisional data of SECC-2011 has been released on 3rd July, 2015. Decision to use SECC data for rural development programmes has been taken by the Department. This Ministry has decided to use SECC-2011 data and to accordingly deploy its resources in planning and implementation of rural development programmes and schemes.

(d): Appropriate Government would select beneficiaries by using the list of automatically included households and by using households reporting on 1-7 deprivation in the SECC-2011 in each Panchayat as per the requirement of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

******